



## **HATCH INSTALLATION PROCEDURE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- Read the following recommendations for the installer thoroughly and carefully. Skipper Fisheries Ltd. will not be held responsible for installer error.
- The Skipper Fisheries Ltd. hatches are designed to give low maintenance, watertight protection and easy, quick-acting operation for ready access below deck. Proper installation will ensure trouble free operation of the hatch.
- When selecting a location for a hatch, you must ensure that the surface is flat and true. If not, the gasket used to make the watertight seal may not work properly.
- You should also consider that if you are fitting a deck hatch, cutting a hole in the boat may compromise the structural integrity of the boat. Hatches should not be considered as stiffening members and it is recommended that the deck be adequately stiffened to prevent distortion during heavy weather and loading. If you have any doubts about the location you are going to place the hatch, you should consult the boat designer or a qualified Naval Architect.

### **INSTALLING THE HATCH**

- Determine the location for the hatch. Check for adequate room for operation. Be sure to check the area below or behind where the hatch is to be installed for possible conflicts. Verify that there are no conflicts to the installation area such as electrical wiring, plumbing lines, structural supports, etc.
- Measure and mark the cutout lines at the chosen location on the deck. Cut along the marked lines.
- For decks of composite construction (FRP) it is recommended that the exposed laminate be sealed with the proper sealer prior to installing the hatch.
- Center the hatch frame in the cutout, mark all frame fastener holes. Remove hatch and drill pilot holes for the fasteners. (Note: Some hatch frames will have ¼" dia. pre-drilled holes. It is recommended that the marked fastening holes be drilled with a 3/16" dia. drill bit.)
- When happy with the dry-fitting of the hatch, remove the hatch. Wipe down with acetone, the surfaces around the cutout edges where the underside of the hatch frame will contact the deck. Wipe down also the underside of the hatch frame where it contacts the deck. Ensure that both surfaces are free of any grease, oil or foreign debris.
- Apply a generous bead of 3M Marine Sealant Fast Cure 5200 (or equivalent) structural adhesive/bedding compound all the way around the portion of the underside of the hatch frame that contacts the deck. Apply sealant around every fastening hole on the underside of the hatch frame.



## **HATCH OPERATION PROCEDURE**

1. Once the hatch cover and its frame have been properly installed, the supplied lanyard should be attached to both the frame and the underside of the hatch cover by using the designated attachment points.
2. Each dog, on the hatch cover, has an arrow etched into the top of the exposed bolt head. The arrow indicates the orientation of the dog.
3. When the arrows are pointing along the edges of the hatch cover, it can be installed onto the frame.
4. To lock the hatch cover, use the supplied hatch wrench to rotate the dogs clockwise. Turn until the arrows point outward (relative to the hatch cover edges). When properly engaged, the direction of the arrows should be pointing at 90° relative to the hatch cover edges.
5. To remove the hatch cover, use the wrench to turn the dogs counter clockwise. Align the arrows on the dog bolts with the hatch cover edges. Remove the hatch cover.

**For more information, please email [welding@comeausea.com](mailto:welding@comeausea.com) or call us at (902) 762-2888**

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